FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 DECEMBER 1980

American Hostages

In an interview with the London-based Arabic newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i stressed that the latest Iranian reply to the U.S. proposals "is our final stand." "There is no question of going back to negotiations on this issue," Raja'i continued, for "our conditions are clear and final."

The prime minister summoned the Vatican's ambassador to Iran, Tehran radio reported, to protest remarks made by Pope John Paul II about the continued detention of the hostages. The Iranian Embassy in Bonn described as "an impertinence" the characterization of Iran's financial demands as a "ransom." In its statement, reported by the West German press agency DPA, the embassy said that Iran is "merely demanding ... its own, incontestable assets" whose value is three times more than all the "very dubiously maintained claims of American companies and persons." In a related development, Tehran radio's Arabic service reported in its press review that "Archbishop Hilarion Capucci will come to Tehran to take part in the Christmas ceremony that will be held for the U.S. hostages."

An unattributed commentary by Tehran radio said Secretary of State Edmund Muskie's rejection of Iran's terms for the release of the hostages is a "most comic thing" and shows that the United States is not interested in securing their release. The radio said that henceforth "responsibility for any event in connection with the hostages rests directly with America," and it warned the United States against prolonging the negotiations in an attempt to embarrass Iran into greater concessions and expecting to receive the hostages in a "beautiful basket" and "gift box." "The only way ... for saving the lives of the hostages and for their release" and for avoiding the "disgrace" of their "probable trial," the commentary stressed, is for the United States to accept Iran's conditions. Turning to the hostages themselves, the radio described as "ridiculous ... comic and childish" a recent U.S. contention that some of the hostages are imprisoned and others have failed to receive proper medical attention. "They are in a very satisfactory condition," it maintained, but the time has passed when U.S. diplomats could stay on the Caspian coast "in the most comfortable conditions." Referring to reports that Iran wants to resolve the hostage issue in order to receive Western assistance, the commentary said that if Iran is truly interested in such assistance, it would have taken a completely different line.

Iran Domestic Affairs

Selection of Ministers--Speaking to an open session of the Majlis, reported by Tehran radio, Prime Minister Raja'i said the selection of ministers is "one of the important issues in dispute" between himself and President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr. Raja'i said his own appointment as prime minister has never received Bani-Sadr's "full consent," and the president has not agreed to Raja'i's demand for prime ministerial freedom to select all but a number of ministers without presidential approval. Following a meeting in which the president, prime minister and Majlis speaker participated, Raja'i said, agreement was reached to refrain from publishing such disputes in the newspapers before discussion with a five-man commission. Raja'i asserted that after discussing the selection of ministers with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and public prosecutor Musavi-Ardebili, further proposals for ministers of finance and commerce were rejected by President Bani-Sadr. The prime minister added that he is also "in extreme difficulty" regarding Iran's lack of a foreign minister and called on the Majlis to hold a closed session at which the president should appear to justify his continued rejections of Raja'i's ministerial nominees.

Assassination Attempt--According to Tehran radio, chief public prosecutor 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardebeli narrowly escaped an assassination attempt when a bomb exploded as he was crossing a Tehran street. The radio portrayed the incident as a "new plot" by "enemies" of the Islamic revolution.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iranian Armed Forces Joint Staff communique, carried by Tehran radio, reported that Iranian Air Force planes downed two invading Iraqi MiG's over Abadan. The communique also said Iraqi planes bombed Abadan at night, causing extensive casualies. In other fighting, the radio reported clashes on the Zahab, Qasr-e Shirin, Darkhovin and Gilan-e Gharab fronts and artillery exchanges around Ahvaz and Dezful. An Iraqi General Command communique, reported by Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses, said that Iraqi troops halted an Iranian advance near Panjwin and that further clashes continued around Susangerd, Mehran and Abadan.

Lebanon

UN Offices--Beirut radio reported that while villagers in southern Lebanese villages submitted a memorandum to truce committee chairman Colonel Mayar protesting UNFIL's failure to protect them against Israeli military operations, demonstrators smashed windows of the UN building in Beirut and "unknown persons" set the offices on fire.

Zahlah Fighting--Despite earlier reports of a cease-fire, the Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the situation in the Biqa' capital has deteriorated and that Syrian forces have resumed shelling the city. The radio also carried the text of a message sent by Phalangist forces commander Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil to the United Nations protesting the sudden and unjustifiable aggression" by the Syrian forces. An Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) spokesman, however, criticized "distorted" and "exaggerated" news and claimed that, in general, "total calm" prevailed in the city. The ADF statement, broadcast by Beirut radio, said ADF units fired for 15 minutes at a sniper after he shot and killed an ADF officer. The spokesman also claimed that ADF units have refrained from entering the city to arrest those who killed five Syrian soldiers on 19 December and have not shelled Zahlah with artillery.

Afghanistan

Defense Minister Lt Gen Mohammad Rafi', in an interview reported by Kabul radio, strongly rejected reports by Western news agencies that Cuban and Bulgarian soldiers are fighting in the country. "Apart from the Soviet Union's limited units," he claimed, "there are no other foreign units...in Afghanistan."

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BAHRAIN

PRIME MINISTER URGES TIGHTER GULF SECURITY

GF201335 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 20-26 Dec 80 p 1

[Text] Bahrain's prime minister, His Excellency Shaykh Khalifah ibn Sulman Al Khalifah, this week expressed his dissatisfaction over the level of coordination on Gulf security and called for tough measures against those thinking of destabilizing internal security.

Shaykh Al Khalifah said the degree of inter-Gulf coordination in security matter was unsatisfactory and that there was a need to find a system to safeguard the area.

The prime minister, who made his comments in a statement to the Bahraini weekly AL-BAHRAIN, also warned against "foreign attempts to sow the seeds of division among the sons of the same people in Bahrain and all other Gulf countries."

He called on all citizens to foil any attempts aimed at undermining the stability which had been built up over the years.

And he added that it was the nation's responsibility to be "stiff" with those who tried to disrupt the country's security.

Shaykh Al Khalifah said: "Our past democratic experiment gave us experience which would enable us to base our future processes on foundations suitable to our society's values and heritage.

"Our democracy is derived from our values, culture and society. We should not import foreign democracies."

He added: "Our democratic experience failed and this should make it necessary to contemplate about and revise the style of democratic processes for the future."

Commenting on the threat of intervention by the superpowers, Shaykh Al Khalifah said the Gulf region must work for greater cooperation and coordination so that it can "close its doors" to these threats.

Said Shaykh Al Khalifah: "When we preserve the security of the Arabian Gulf area, we will bolster the security of the eastern wing of the Arab world.

"The security of the region is an indivisible part of the total concept of Arab unity.

"Arab collective security is based on a national and not a regional outlook," he said.

KUWAIT

KUWAIT TO SUPPORT JOINT GULF MILITARY COMMAND

GF201343 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 20-26 Dec 80 p 3

[Text] Kuwait's chief of staff, Maj Gen 'Abdallah Farraj al-Ghanim, says he will support any move toward setting up a joint military command for the Gulf.

But in a press statement published in Kuwait he said such a move was a question for the political leaders in the region to decide.

He stressed that security in the region was the responsbility of Gulf states "which are capable of defending their common interests."

General Farraj said there was coordination among states in weapons purchases and that Kuwait had adopted a policy of diversifying its sources of military equipment and now had sophisticated weapons from a variety of sources.

He said Kuwait possessed an air defence network enabling it to protect its oil fields and defend the state against attack from any direction. The Kuwaiti Air Force had orders to intercept any planes violating its airspace.

EDITORIAL TERMS U.S. STRATEGY 'OLD FASHIONED'

GF201430 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 19 Dec 80 p 1

[Editorial: "The United States and the Tough Swim in the Gulf's Waters"]

[Text] U.S. interests will sink in the waters of the Gulf as they did in Vietnam's mud, in the jungles of the African Horn, in Afghanistan's wilderness and in the lobbies of the Middle East. The giant creative U.S. mind is passing through a stage of inactivity. The U.S. decisionmaking machine is covered with rust which has been increasing since a succession of third-rate presidents entered the White House.

In fact, the United States does not have a clear strategic concept. This has been so since the basic and important developments in the world took place in the 1950's and 1960's. The absence of a new U.S. view is not limited to the situation in the Gulf but also includes many other major issues in Africa, Asia and even Europe itself.

The real problem lies in the fact that the United States still depends on a strategy that was effective only in the 1950's and 1960's. This strategy ceased to be effective in the 1970's and is no longer good enough to be effective in the 1980's. The U.S. situation is very much like the head of the international family who used to dicipline his children by shouting, beating, confining them to corners, raising their arms above the head next to a wall, and by depriving them from their allowances. But the U.S. "family head" forgot that his children have grown up, reached the age of consent, got married, raised children, and chose for themselves their thoughts and their own life style. The deciplining methods of the old "family head" no longer work with the children, even if they pretended to agree with him.

The evidence lies in the fact that the United States in the 1980's is still thinking in the 1950's manner. What the United States is irrationally speaking of--of its plans to use its so-called Rapid Deployment Force [RDF] in the Gulf--is nothing but a new stupid form of Eisenhower's principle of the 1950's as applied in Lebanon during the 1958 events.

Before too long the United States will have to realize that use of its RDF in the Gulf will have only one inevitable result: the rapid drowning of these forces in the Gulf's waters--of course, after a difficult and futile attempt to swim out of the rough waters.

SAUDI ARABIA

OIL MINISTER COMMENTS ON OIL FLOW TO WEST

LD191524 Kuwait KUNA in English 1017 GMT 19 Dec 80

[Text] Geneva, 19 Dec (KUNA)--The Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani was quoted as saying that unless the conflict with Israel was resolved the flow of oil to the West "will be suddenly and drastically reduced." Shaykh Yamani gave the warning in an interview with the Swiss weekly newspaper WLTWOCHE, just before this week's OPEC meeting in Bali. "The shock will come...we will deal that blow to you, I promise you," he was quoted as saying. However he added that it was still hoped that the West would be wise enough not to let the situation reach that stage.

Shayak Yamani said the Soviet Union must take part in any solution to the Middle East conflict, and he criticised Western Europe's dialogue with the Arab world and the Palestine Liberation Oranisation as insufficient.

"Someone who takes one step when a thousand are needed has done nothing. Europe [words indistinct] a lot and shows good intentions, but that is not enough."

The Saudi oil minister also criticised the Soviet Union for its attitude to energy and Third Wrold problems saying Moscow "had never made positive contribution."

Shaykh Yamani warned of soaring oil prices early next year unless the West changed its present policy of stockpiling oil. He said it was "not at all ruled out" that prices could reach 50 dollars a barrel by next spring unless Western governments took a reasonable attitude.

He said it was "not good sign" that the United States, France and Japan had all decided to increase or maintain their oil reserves.

In Canberra Shaykh Yamani said yesterday that the end of the Iran-Iraq war was in sight. He said Iraq could not afford to fight on beyond the end March but the two countries are already thinking of an end to the war that suits both of them. They are totaly dependent on oil revenue and they cannot continue the war if they do not export oil.

The 50-year-old minister said Iraq had resumed its oil production and was exporting 1.6 million barrels a day through Turkey, Syria and Lebanon instead of via the Arabian Gulf.

The war has cut international oil supplies by four million barrels a day. Shaykh Yamani said that the end of the Iran-Iraq war would bring a glut of oil on the world market in the latter part of next year. Both countries would produce huge amounts of oil to rebuild their war-ravaged economies, he said.

PAPER REPORTS ON PLANS FOR NEW WAR FACTORIES

LD220855 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 15 Dec 80 p 1

[Muhammad al-Wa'il report: "Study For Building New War Factories In Some Parts of Kingdom"]

[Text] A study is being carried out for building new war factories in the kingdom in accordance with the kingdom's policy to promote and develop the capability and efficiency of the armed forces so that they will be up to the level required to defend our holy places and wealth. This was stated to AL-JAZIRAH by Lt Gen Ibrahim al-Farisi, director general of the war factories.

Lt Gen al-Farisis said that the supreme commander of the armed forces, his Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, will shortly inaugurate new projects for war factories in Al-Kharj.

He said that the fact that his majesty patronizes military projects and ceremonies confirms his majesty's interest in the armed forces personnel.

Concluding he said that the kingdom and its army, as his majesty the supreme commander and his royal highness the crown prince said, provide strength for the Arabs and Muslims in the face of challenges and threats to the Islamic nation.

It is worth noting that all the war factories personnel--supervisors and trainees--are 100 percent Saudis.

EDITORIAL VIEWS REAGAN AIDES' SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

LD240905 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 20 Dec 80 p 1

[Editorial: "The New Pentagon Man Is Competing in Support and Backing for Israel too"]

[Text] Despite the tremendous difficulties President-elect Ronald Reagan is encountering in his efforts to complete the formation of his government team to administer the United States in the coming 4 years, the statements of the two most important secretaries he has chosen--Secretary of State [-designate] Alexander Haig and Defense Secretary [-designate] Caspar Weinberger--about their future policies create even greater difficulties for Reagan's efforts because of the internal opposition they generate and the anxiety and concern over future foreign U.S. and military policy they create.

Haig has said that Israel is a strategic ally for his country, particularly with regard to NATO's southern flank and U.S. policy in the Middle East. This has made the Israelis rejoice at his appointment to this post and at the appointment of the present U.S. ambassador to Israel as his political adviser on Middle East affairs.

As Haig's statements were still echoing and the Israeli reaction to them was still reverberating, the man nominated for the Defense Department (Weinerger) was soon competing with his colleague the secretary of state by declaring his intentions toward Israel and what he is going to do for that country when he enters the Pentagon. He declared that Israel must be given substantial U.S. economic aid and that it will be among the "privileged countries" that will receive future U.S. economic aid.

U.S. political, diplomatic, economic, and military support for Israel is a fact known worldwide; if it were not for this Israel would not continue to exist to this day on usurped Palestinian land and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza sector and the Golan would not still be continuing.

But through their statements the U.S. politicians are showing to the world that in the whole world there is only one state that deserves the support and backing of their country, namely Israel. It is as if Israel is alone the everlasting guarantee of U.S. strength abroad and the only reason for the existence of U.S. interests outside the United States.

Since the conspiracy of the establishment of the State of Israel in Palestine in 1948 much of the world's geopolitical map has changed. Many American political mentalities were supposed to have changed accordingly to absorb this worldwide geopolitical change and to see clearly that the potential of the countries that used to be under economic, political, and military colonization until the first half of this century has increased thousands of times. As a result, the peoples of these countries have gained tremendous strength in their quest for freedom, independence and national sovereignty and for liberation from all forms of injustice and tyranny through military repression.

Whatever economic, military and political aid Israel may receive from the United States it will not grow bigger than what it is because further inflating it would lead to the explosion of this insignificant entity, which has been magnified to thousands of times its actual size.

Whatever economic and military strength U.S. support gives to Israel the strength countering it is also growing at a rate proportionate to the states and peoples surrounding Israel, a rate which Israel cannot reach even in a thousand years should it continue to exist in the area as an aggressive state.

'ALI: NEW LEADERSHIP WILL NOT CHANGE U.S. POLICY

NC230135 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly resumed its meetings tonight under the chairmanship of Dr Sufi Abu Talib to continue its debate of the government's program.

Answering a question on the contacts which took place between Egypt and the United States regarding the continuation of the peace march in the Middle East and the preparation for the tripartite summit, [Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister] Kamal Hasan 'Ali emphasized that it was a foregone conclusion that the United States is carrying out a major role in the attempt to find a peaceful solution to the situation in the Middle East, that this role is continuing and that close contacts will continue with the new officials responsible for the U.S. foreign policy, particularly during the transitional period between the two administrations. Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States came to realize this aim. It has laid down strong foundations for the future cooperation with the new administration.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali answered another question on the state's foreign policy following the likely developments after Carter's fall and on the state's policy in confronting Israel's reported possession of the atomic bomb. He said that Egypt's policy is established on firm bases designed to achieve its national aims. He added that the Egyptian Government believes that the U.S.' full partnership in the peace process in the Middle East will not be affected by the change of the U.S. leadership and that this partnership is continuing to make the steps subsequent on the ratification of the peace treaty, the most important of which are the realization of full autonomy for the Palestinians and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

Concerning Israel's reported possession of the atomic bomb, 'Ali said that since the beginning of the sixties, Israel has had the necessary capability to produce nuclear weapons through the Dimona reactor which is not subject to international inspection but despite this, there is no proof that Israel has actually produced a nuclear weapon or carried out a nuclear test [words indistinct].

Answering a question on Israel's attempts to annex the Golan Heights, he said that Egypt condemns most strongly and clearly all attempts by some extremist elements in Israel to annex any part of the occupied territories, that any attempt to annex the Golan would constitute a violation of the UN Charter and that any such decisions by the Knesset would threaten the efforts for peace in the Middle East.

AS-SADAT'S MESSAGE TO PORT SAID CITIZENS

NC231355 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1154 GMT 23 Dec 80

["Text" of President Anwar as-Sadat's 23 December message to the people of Port Said on the governorate's national day, read on the president's behalf by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il]

[Text] In the name of God, dear brothers and sisters, the sons of Port Said: We owe it to ourselves and to history to observe victory day in your heroic city, thus remembering a magnificent saga of heroism dating back 25 years, a saga that is still luminous thanks to the values of sacrifice.

A few days ago all eyes were turned toward your great city with appreciation and gratitude while we celebrated the third inauguration of the Suez Canal--that is, the inauguration of a new lifeline for man's prosperity.

Though these two occasions are occurring within the same week, this lofty city couples the heroism of sacrifice with the greatness of the achievements being made in the domain of construction. Thus, this city projects an image of Egypt as a solid and authentic country, the country of struggle through all the battles it has waged, the country of construction through all the civilizations it has created.

The battle in Port Said against the tripartite aggression takes a prominent place in history because it represents a small city's will to struggle and remain steadfast while being subjected to an aggression by three states. The attacks were marked by extreme ferocity and were confronted by a popular will marked by extreme solidity.

The enemy demolished quarters and houses, destroyed factories and schools, and hit mosques and churches. However, the enemy was unable to crush the spirit of sacrifice, destroy the will for steadfastness or shake our profound faith and solid struggle.

The Egyptian people's will triumphed in Port Said, brought about a decisive end to the century of empires, and initiated a decisive beginning for the major changes that have liberated the Arab people as well as those involved in the struggles in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Within the next few days we will observe a day of solidarity with the Afghan people, who are confronting with rare heroism a sinful aggression. Let the anniversary of the Port Said battle be a fuel of determination and an incentive for hope for the fraternal Afghan people in greeting their struggle. Let it also be a presage of their victory.

Brother and sister citizens: The 1956 battle against tripartite aggression flamed the people's struggle and implanted the spirit of heroism deep in their hearts through successive events and battles that further added to this great city's heroic credit.

In keeping with its pledge Port Said remained steadfast during the difficult days that followed the 1967 aggression. It also honored its pledge through the struggle it waged and the sacrifices it made while our valiant armed forces were fighting the October 1973 battle, thus writing a splendid saga that brought together the heroism of great sacrifice as well as advanced combat techniques.

When the good tidings of peace came, Port Said, in record time, removed the effects of the aggression. Port Said has been Egypt's vanguard in struggle and sacrifice. Port Said, being the free city overlooking the greatest waterway and with its location for world trade, endows the epic of reconstruction with an achievement no less important and a victory no less magnificent than the achievements it has made through the battles it has fought throughout its struggle.

Brother and sister citizens, given the facts of its history, Egypt does not go back on its battles or hesitate to make sacrifices. Egypt is the land of heroism when heroism is needed in the battles for freedom. Egypt has wisdom and confidence, which make it safeguard sacrifices when the battles achieve their aim and when the chances of a just peace loom as an alternative to wars and destruction.

Those who are afraid and hesitant cannot take pioneering stands in the course of human history, but an old, noble people who are self-confident and sure of their potential can embark on the changes that are required by the nature of the age and its circumstances. The peace march has attained a great achievement despite the difficulties facing it. It is proceeding toward a just and comprehensive peace that regains the occupied land, keeps Palestinian rights and safeguards Arab Jerusalem.

We are determined to struggle for a just peace with the same resolve, insistence and firmness with which we waged the battles of freedom, believing in its aims and confident that we will achieve them now that peace has become the will of the peoples and is historically inevitable.

Perhaps the fabricated battles the world is witnessing today are an indication that the advocates and merchants of war are fighting their last battles as best as they can now that the peace march--which they view as a new reality that threatens their interests and exposes their greed--is frightening them.

Egypt knows its way and takes no notice of the claims by the greedy, rejectionists and outbidders as it builds peace rightly and justly and achieves a bright and proud life on its land for its sons. Egypt views with sadness and regret those brothers who isolated themselves, forgot the issues of their destiny and their nation's aspirations and became engaged in trivialities, conflicts, plots and fighting while Egypt keeps its pledge, fulfilling its promise and shouldering the trust with courage and honor.

Brothers and sisters and heroic sons of Port Said: As we commemorate the national day of your courageous city, the victory day for all of Egypt, we are deeply grateful for the heroism of the heroes and the sacrifices by the martyrs of our courageous armed forces and the masses of the great Egyptian people throughout the long struggles. We thank the friendly people for their honest stand denouncing aggression and supporting our struggle in the battles for liberation and for putting the principles of right and justice above interests and alliances. We remember Egypt's friends among those who supported our march to build peace and helped to achieve its aims for development and prosperity.

With God's blessing we will continue a new stage of national action, a stage we approach with struggle experience and with resolve and determination. This stage requires all those with an honest conscience and strong arms to break the barriers of impotence and failure and go ahead and build a new society that will achieve for our generation and future generations their aspirations for progress and prosperity. Let us continue our march to build an Egypt of peace, democracy and prosperity with more genuine determination and sacrifice and with a deeper faith that God Almighty rewards the hard workers with better recompense. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

TARIQ 'AZIZ OUTLINES STAND ON WAR ISSUES

JN212112 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2048 GMT 22 Dec 80

[Text] Paris, 22 Dec (INA)--Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, has stated that Iraq's military, political and economic stand has been and will continue to be the strongest.

During his meeting tonight with editors-in-chief of French newspapers and heads of the French media, 'Aziz asserted that it is Iran which will be largely exhausted as a result of the continuation of the war which is raging inside its territory and not on Iraq's borders. The deputy prime minister ridiculed the claims that Iraq had failed in its attack on Iran. He added: Our forces have met their objectives as designated by the political leadership. When our forces achieved their objectives on 28 september, President Saddam Husayn made a speech in which he called for a peaceful settlement with Iran in accordance with the basis that would secure our rights and sovereignty.

'Aziz explained that Iraq's continued call for holding negotiations and achieving a political settlement in accordance with the principles of justice and international law does not constitute a point of weakness.

'Aziz said: We advocated a peaceful solution prior to the eruption of war, when it started and during the war. We say this now, from a position of strength, because our objective is to restore Iraq's legitimate rights and those of the Arab nation and to achieve normal relations with Iran based on respect of sovereignty, on Iran's giving up its expansionist trends and on nonintervention in the affairs of the area's states.

'Aziz recalled that Iraq has defined its stand clearly and with high responsibility toward the conflict, adding that the other party failed to present any ideas of programs on the future relations with Iraq. The other party, he added, is talking in a language unacceptable to the international community and is refusing to demarcate the international borders with Iraq. Therefore, the present regime in Iran is responsible for the conflict and for the failure to reach a peaceful settlement.

AFP Report

NC230654 Paris AFP in English 0633 GMT 22 Dec 80

[Text] Paris, 23 Dec (AFP)--Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz denied here last night that the Iraqi Army had bogged down in Iran. "We achieved our military objectives last Sept. 28," he said at a press conference, "and we will stay in the positions we now occupy as long as necessary."

Iraq did not want to occupy more territory or change Iran's regime Mr. 'Aziz said. Baghdad's only goals were to get Iran to recognize Iraq's rights over the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, to promise not to intervene in Iraq's domestic affairs, and to restore the three islands in the Hormuz Strait to Arab sovereignty. But Mr 'Aziz said his government supported all Iranian minorities "struggling for autonomy."

He indicated that France would deliver warplanes ordered by Iraq several years ago.

The deputy premier said Iraq was exporting petroleum normally but that its pipeline through Syria was not functioning because of a technical breakdown that had nothing to do with the war or any political decision (by Syria).

PRESS STATEMENT ON FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRIP

JN241030 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Dec 80

["Text" of 23 December press statement issued by Iraqi Foreign Ministry on Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi's tour of several Asian countries and Yugoslavia 7-22 December 1980]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and the members of his delegation paid official visits to several Asian countries--including the Philippines, Nepal and the Maldives--and Yugoslavia 7-22 December 1980. The visits were in response to invitations extended by the foreign ministers of the aforementioned countries out of a mutual desire to strengthen, develop and expand bilateral relations and to deliberate on issues of mutual concern, especially the situation in the Arab region and the war with Iran.

Dr Hammadi gave a full explanation of the dispute with Iran, covering all its historical, political and legal aspects. He cited documents to explain the factors that led to the dispute, the present situation and the Iranian Government's attitude. Wherever he went, Dr Hammadi found full understanding of and deep appreciation for Iraq's constructive position, which is fully conscious of national and pan-Arab responsibilities and is based on the principles of sound international relations and which also respects everyone's legitimate interests and seeks peace and stability in this region, which exists in a state of tension due to policies of encroaching on other people's inalienable rights, committing aggression against them and interfering in their affairs.

Dr Hammadi and the members of his delegation were received by his excellency the president of the Philippines, his majesty the king of Nepal, the foreign minister of Thailand and the president of the Maldives. Dr Hammadi conveyed to them written messages from President Saddam Husayn. Dr Hammadi also held lengthy talks with the foreign ministers and other senior officials in all these countries. Furthermore, Dr Hammadi met with other ministers in all these countries to discuss bilateral relations in all fields.

Dr Hammadi used the opportunity of his stopover in Colombo to meet with the acting foreign minister of Sri Lanka. They held a working session during which they fully reviewed the Iraqi-Iranian dispute. During his visits to Manila, Katmandu and the Maldives, Dr Hammadi held press conferences during which he clarified Iraqi policy on all national, pan-Arab and international issues and shed light on the results of the Iraqi delegation's tour.

Dr Hammadi concluded his tour with a working visit to Yugoslavia where he was received by the president of the SFRY. During this visit, Dr Hammadi held talks with the Yugoslav foreign minister, the deputy prime minister for economic affairs and the minister of energy, industry and petroleum. The discussions dealt with Iraqi-Yugoslav relations and issues of mutual concern, especially the two countries' cooperation with the nonaligned movement and the dispute with Iran.

The general discussion in all these visits dealt with Iraq's relations with these countries and means of developing them in the various fields such as trade exchange, cooperation in the oil industry, employment of manpower and cultural cooperation. The two main political topics discussed as far as the Arab region is concerned were the Arab-Zionist conflict and the war with Iran. The discussion also touched on political issues concerning the Southeast Asian region such as conditions in the region of the ASEAN group and the future of the nonaligned movement. The discussions produced positive results in developing bilateral relations and ensuring better understanding of the political issues facing the Arab and ASEAN regions. The discussions during these visits also dealt with an Iraqi proposal to begin a dialogue between the Arab League and the ASEAN group. The proposal was well received.

In a statement upon his return to Baghdad on 22 December 1980, Dr Hammadi expressed his satisfaction with the positive results of his tour and the role they will play in further developing Iraq's relations with the countries visited for the mutual benefit of everyone concerned and for consolidating Iraqi and Arab ties with the countries of the world. These positive results have already been reflected in the joint statements issued during the tour.

MILITARY COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE NO 188

JN231736 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Communique No 188 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 23 December 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Our valiant armed forces continue to be in full control over their operations sectors. Following are the results of our forces' activities yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Personnel:

1. Yesterday, enemy troop concentrations were sighted in front of our border units' positions in the Panjwin region. Fire was opened on them with all sorts of weapons, causing them to flee after having sustained more than 50 dead.
2. Two were killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
3. Our advance units in the Sayf Sa'f region opened light weapons and artillery fire on a group of enemy personnel when it was sighted in front of our positions. The enemy fled, leaving behind 10 dead.
4. Two were killed in the Mehran region.
5. Yesterday evening our combat patrols raided enemy positions in the Dezful sector and killed seven enemy troops. Fourteen others were killed in the same sector by our advance units' sniper and artillery fire.
6. Our advance units in Khafajiyah [Susangerd] fired at enemy troop concentrations in front of our positions and forced them to flee, leaving behind 20 dead and 7 wounded.
7. An enemy force tried to approach our advance units' positions in the Ahfaz region. Our forces confronted it and forced it to flee after killing 13 of its personnel.
8. One was killed in the Abadan region.

This brings the number of known enemy losses in personnel up to 119 dead and a number of wounded.

B. Equipment:

1. The following equipment was destroyed: three tanks; one personnel carrier; six vehicles, one of which was laden with hardware; six guns of various calibers; four ammunition stockpiles; two bulldozers; one rocket launcher; and three observation posts.
2. A TOW missile launcher with a wireless radio and a quantity of ammunition were seized. All are serviceable.

C. Today our planes raided an enemy radar station east of Dehloran, scoring direct hits on it. Our planes returned safely to base.

II. Our losses:

A. Personnel: 33 martyrs in all sectors.

B. Equipment: The following equipment was damaged: two armored personnel carriers, five vehicles, one mortar and one gun.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 December 1980

PRESIDENT HOLDS TALKS WITH ARAB LEAGUE'S KLIBI

JN202044 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)--President Saddam Husayn received here this evening Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

During the meeting, President Saddam Husayn listened to a briefing by Klibi on ways to purify the Arab atmosphere and the results of his tour of some Arab states in seeking to consolidate joint Arab action in light of the Amman summit conference resolutions.

President Saddam Husayn informed the Arab League secretary general of Iraq's clear-cut stand on every current Arab issue.

The meeting was attended by staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, and Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs and acting foreign minister.

Klibi arrived in Baghdad earlier today on a visit to Iraq as part of his current tour of some Arab countries.

NEW RADIO OPPOSING BAGHDAD REGIME MONITORED

JN181810 [Editorial Report] A station broadcasting in Arabic was intercepted at 1745 GMT on 18 December 1980 on 1551 kHz. The station identified itself as "the Voice of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq" (Huna Sawt ath-Thawrah al-Islamiyah fi al-'Iraq). Further monitoring has suggested a broadcast schedule of 1600-1800 daily with reception ranging from fair to indistinct.

22 Dec Program Summary

NC231927 [Editorial Report] The clandestine Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic from 1600 to 1800 GMT on 22 December carries the following items:

1. Opening announcement, including frequency announcement and transmission period.

2. Koran recitation, followed by music.

3. Quotation of Koranic verses and their interpretation regarding the intentions of the polytheists toward the Muslims and the believers. The interpretator says that these verses order us "not to bargain or pacify the polytheists because they do not hesitate to exploit everything to serve their interests and purposes." He adds that their hearts "are full of hatred toward you and they will humiliate and humble you when given an opportunity." The speaker goes on to say that this is what has been happening in Iraq in the past 13 years and urges the people to return to God. He says: "Fight the imams of atheism because they are an incurable disease who must be killed." [8 minutes--partly indistinct]

4. "Tell Us a Story" program, introduced by "your brother Abu Qaz." Talk in the Iraqi vernacular ridiculing the Iraqi rulers friendship with India saying that there are perhaps two reasons for this friendship: "The Indians worship the cows and the Ba'thists worship the calf," India having 7 million cows and Iraq has one calf. The second reason which links India with the Ba'th party is that they were both colonized by Britain. Talk also attacks "traitor Arab rulers" for calling for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territory meaning withdrawal from the Golan Heights, West Bank and Gaza sector and forgetting about the Palestinian question. [20 minutes--most indistinct]

5. Biography of a martyr of the Muhammadan message in Iraq, Naji Muhammad Kurayyim, who was born in An-Najaf in 1956. [10 minutes--partly indistinct]

6. Talk accusing the Iraqi regime of torture and murders everywhere in Iraq and appealing to the world organizations to investigate this accusation. The victims' only guilt, the talk maintains, was their faith in God. It goes on to say: "We don't [ask] the world to help or support us. We only ask that it investigate our charge in order that it may know under what terror and oppression the sons of Iraq live and also know that Iraq is ruled by Bokassa, Hitler, the shah, Taymur Leng and Stalin." [3 minutes]

7. Largely indistinct talk accusing the Ba'thist regime in Iraq of racism and of distorting the Arab-Persian history. It also accuses the regimes of As-Sadat and Saddam Husayn and London imperialist radio, concentrating on racism against Arabs and Persians. It describes Saddam Husayn as the enemy of the Islamic revolution and its leader Khomeyni and says the flags of Islam will reach Jerusalem. [10 minutes--mainly indistinct]

8. Palestinian revolution song "Bism Allah, Bism ad-Dam, Bism ath-Thawrah ash-Sha'biyah, etc."

9. "A Phenomenon and an Analysis." Talk accuses the Iraqi information media of insincerity and covering up or minimizing the losses of Iraq in its war with Iran. [5 minutes]

10. "Special Message." "Attention, attention. From Sadiq to the figure 400 and beyond. Do not retreat. The information is incorrect. May God grant you victory." The message is read twice.

11. Talk on the growth of the Islamic movement in the region accusing the personal aide of Numayri and Hasan at-Tuhami, the representative of Anwar as-Sadat, of fighting against Islam and its sincere movements. [5 minutes--mainly indistinct]

12. News and comment program: AFP disclosed two days ago the discovery of top secret documents in the Iranian city of Asfahan belonging to the American Embassy including the plan prepared by the American intelligence and the Jordanian and Iraqi Governments on ways of waging war against the Republic of Iran. The documents say that Saddam Husayn told an American intelligence officer that he could solve the question of the hostages by waging a war on Iran and toppling the Islamic republican regime. The French magazine L'HUMANITE said in its last edition under the title "The Mistakes of Saddam in the War" that the losses of Iraq, particularly the oil losses, in the war were very high, ranging from $3.5 to $4 billion. He believed that Iranian forces were weak but the war proved the opposite.

DER SPIEGEL quoted its correspondent in Iraq as saying that he firmly believes the Iraqi president made a gross error when he believed that the Iranian regime became weak after the revolution. Saddam gave undue attention to the directions of the shah officers who took refuge in Iraq.

FRG radio said Iraqi rulers failed in their assessment of the Iranian forces ability and are now involved in a war because they are now confronting not the forces only but all the Iranian people. They are now at an impasse.

The HERALD TRIBUNE carried a report on the mistreatment of foreign journalists by the Iraqi authorities pointing out that they were expelled and prevented from visiting the areas of military operations. The GUARDIAN carried a similar report.

13. Talk about the aims of the British policy on the Islamic world saying it aims at at preventing the Islamic world becoming an international force influential in the international policies, looting the wealth of the Islamic world, keeping the Islamic lines of communications servicing the British interests. Talk says Britain will never abandon any of these aims unless compelled to do so. [10 minutes]

14. Poem attacking Saddam Husayn describing him as tyrant and saying he will not escape the wrath of the people.

15. Closing announcement.

IRAQI ENVOY EXPLAINS 'HISTORICAL FACTS ' OF WAR

JN240718 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Text2 Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, doyen of journalists and member of the Iraqi National Assembly. this afternoon met with a number of journalists and others working the Jordanian news media. During this meeting, Hammudi reviewed the different stages of the Iraqi-Iranian dispute and presented the historical facts proving Iraq's natural right to the territories which Iran occupied by force despite the many treaties and facts it signed to return these territories to Iraq by amicable and peaceful means.

Hammudi said that the Iranian regime was not satisfied with abrogating these treaties and absolving itself of its obligations under them, but went further by plotting against Iraq and instigating its people against their revolution. It also occupied the three Arab islands in the Gulf and threatened to occupy Bahrain. Hammudi asserted that Iraq, which had to resort to armed force in order to regain its occupied territories, has no intention or occupying any part of Iranian territory.

Regarding Jordan's position on the Iraqi-Iranian dispute, Hammudi said: Jordan's position was distinctive, expressing a true Arab character and true Arab values as demonstrated throughout Arab history. He said history will not forgive those Arab countries which reneged on the Iraqi-Iranian issue. Hammudi said that Iraq will utilize all its resource and capabilities in the service of the Arab cause, especially the Palestine question. He said that the fighting experience gained in the war with Iran will be used in the struggle against Zionist aggression.

The meeting was attended by Jordanian Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and the head of the various Jordanian information departments. Later Hammudi visited Jordan radio. Hammudi is currently on a tour of Jordan and Lebanon at the head of a popular delegation to explain the true dimensions of the Iraqi-Iranian war and the recurrent Iranian aggressions that triggered off the war. Other popular delegations have left Iraq to visit other Arab countries on the same mission.

ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST SYRIAN REGIME REPORTED

JN221700 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Dec 80

[Text] Acts of violence against the Syrian regime erupted anew in Aleppo and other Syrian towns during the last 2 days. These acts have gripped the Syrian authorities, making them go out of their minds. People arriving from Syria have reported that the acts of violence which erupted in Aleppo recently were daringly organized. This explains the Syrian authorities' violent and bloody reaction.

Observers said the Syrian authorities have shrouded these events with secrecy because the regime's response was extremely violent when it used tanks and planes to quell the mutiny and strike at the opposition. The Syrian authorities did not dare disclose these events for they declared a few days ago that calm is prevailing and that life has returned to normal.

U.S. JOINT CHIEFS CHAIRMAN GEN JONES ARRIVES

JN191950 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Dec 80

[Text] Gen David Jones, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in Amman this evening on a visit of several days to Jordan. While here, General Jones will meet with several officials and visit several cultural and historical sites.

Among those who received General Jones were Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; the chief of staff; a number of high-ranking officers of the general command; the U.S. ambassador in Amman; and the embassy staff.

It is worth mentioning that General Jones, in his capacity as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, serves also as a military adviser to the president of the United States and to the Defense Department. This is the second time General Jones has visited Jordan since 1979.

King Husayn Reception

JN211847 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, received at noon today Gen David Jones, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. The meeting was attended by Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR MOROCCO 21 DEC

JN211510 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim left Amman for Morocco this morning at the head of a Jordanian delegation to attend the Jerusalem Committee meetings, which are due to begin in Fes tomorrow, Monday.

In a statement to journalists, the minister said that Jordan, which worked unilaterally, collectively and internationally to bolster the kinfolk's steadfastness in the occupied territory and to support the Palestinian Arab people in every sphere, is today participating in the Jerusalem Committee meetings fully hopeful that the recommendations to be adopted by the committee will be on the required level.

He added that Jordan will submit a plan aimed at coordinating the Arab stand in order to confront the aggressive Israeli policies practiced by Israel against the kinfolk in the occupied territories, particularly in Arab Jerusalem. He pointed out the importance the Arab states attach to these meetings and said: These meetings come after the 35th UN session and the issuance of important UN resolutions as well as after the 11th Arab summit conference in Amman, which issued several important political and economic resolutions that clearly concentrated on the need to support the kinfolk's steadfastness on the occupied territory and to support and back the PLO and emphasize its independence.

HUSAYN SPEECH MARKS TRANSFER OF TANKS FROM IRAQ

JN212041 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Dec 80

[Speech delivered on 21 December 1980 by Jordan's King Husayn at the headquarters of the 1st Royal Armored Battalion on the occasion of the battalion's 30th anniversary--videotaped]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Brother youth in this dear battalion: Arab generations have successively fought under this battalion's banner. They have raised this banner high and protected it in defense of right, dignity and honor and in honor of performing duty in the Arab army. The Arab army is the defender of the mission--the mission of the free Arabs--and the defender of the Arab banner [applause]--the nation's shield and the place on which the Arab generations pin hopes.

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to all the brothers on this occasion--the great anniversary. With this opportunity, we choose to replace the tanks of this batallion with a new batch of tanks that will be sent to you successively after [applause] receiving maintenance at the armed forces' workshops. These are the M-60 tanks which we recently received from fraternal Iraq.

DEMONSTRATORS SET FIRE TO UN OFFICES IN BEIRUT

NC231230 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Text] Demonstrators from southern Lebanon smashed the windows of certain offices in the UN building in Bi'r Hasan quarter while unknown persons were setting fire to these offices. Hasan quarter while unknown persons were setting fire to these offices. This incident took place as people from Bra'shit and Majdal Silm were submitting a memorandum to truce committee chairman Colonel (Mayar) protesting UNFIL's default in protecting southern Lebanese villages against recent Israeli aggression as well as its failure to prevent Israeli forces from blowing up houses in both villages.

While the protest memorandum was being considered, certain people infiltrated into a UN observers office and adjacent offices and set them on fire while others threw stones at office windows.

The demonstrators distributed a leaflet denouncing what they described as UNIFIL's default in safeguarding the villages in its operational area from recent Israeli attacks that left three dead, five injured and some houses blown up.

Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus was briefed on the incident while responsible quarters took prompt measures to protect the UN building and other UN information offices in Beirut.

BUTRUS COMMENTS ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 483

NC191921 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Commenting on UN Security Council Resolution 483, [Foreign] Minister Butrus said today: I need not remind anyone of the stance that Lebanon has taken on renewing UNIFIL's mandate in the south, nor do I need to talk about the contents of the aide memoire that has been submitted by the head of the Lebanese mission to the United Nations. Lebanon's demands as well as its attitude have been clearly stated.

He added: For several reasons, the most important of which is the tension that exists in relations among states and blocs throughout the world, this resolution has not responded to Lebanon's demands the way we wanted it to. The resolution merely contained a reminder that UNIFIL was entitled to use force in self-defense.

Minister Butrus said: If the new resolution amounts to nothing more than a new document to be added to those stored at the United Nations without its being effective in anyway, Lebanon will then be compelled to take another attitude toward both the UNIFIL mandate renewal and the stay of UNIFIL. This signifies that Lebanon expects the United Nations, in cooperation and coordination with Lebanon and with some sisterly and friendly states, to initiate diplomatic moves that would create the atmosphere needed to enable the Security Council to promote the efficacy of the UN security forces. During the period of the new mandate Lebanon would like to see the UN secretary general issue the requisite orders to these forces to they can use their prerogatives in facing anything that might hamper or impair their mission.

GEN JONES AMMAN VISIT LINKED TO MILITARY AXIS

JN201334 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Dec 80

[Text] Amman--Gen David Jones, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in Amman last night on a tour of the area which will also take him to Cairo and Tel Aviv. During his meetings with officials in the three capitals, General Jones will hold talks on the hostile military axis to be formed by all these sides under Washington's leadership. It is noteworthy that General Jones' visit to Amman takes place following Washington's announcement that it cares about the security of King Husayn's regime and the recent military backing it gave to King Husayn.

JORDANIAN POLITICAL DETAINEES APPEAL FOR RIGHTS

JN231110 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Text] Beirut--Political detainees in the prisons of the Jordanian regime have sent a message to the Arab committee for the defense of human rights currently meeting in Tunis. The Jordanian committees for the defense of democratic liberties also published in Beirut yesterday a namelist of 91 political detainees in the Al-Mahattah prison in Amman.

In their message, the political detainees spoke about the savage campaigns of suppression, terrorism and persecution waged against the Jordanian masses. They also spoke about the suppression of democratic liberties by the Jordanian regime.

The message says: The Jordanian regime has deprived the people of their democratic liberties by suspending free parliamentary elections, freedom of expression and freedom of the press. The regime is also openly interfering in the affairs of trade unions and other organizations and terrorizing Jordanian nationalists and fighters of the Palestinian revolution.

The detainees also said in their message that the Jordanian regime has passed unfair prison sentences, including life imprisonment and even execution, against many strugglers of the Jordanian national movement and the Palestinian revolution. The detainees described the Jordanian regime's practices as similar to those of racist South Africa. The Jordanian regime, they added, still applies the British mandate laws, which give the oppressive Jordanian machinery the power to continue to detain strugglers even if not proved guilty of any crime. The detainees asserted that the Jordanian regime is still applying martial law in the country, using the existence of the Zionist occupation as an excuse. All this does not conform to the UN declaration of human rights, which it claims to defend before international forums.

The detainees pointed out the contradiction between the Jordanian regime's official statements and declared political stands toward the PLO and its actual practices, which are all geared toward antagonizing the Arab masses, headed by the PLO, and entrenching the Camp David process and imperialist influence in the Arab region.

The political detainees called upon the committee for the defense of human rights to oppose the campaign of oppression, terrorism and arrests which the Jordanian regime has been waging against Jordanian strugglers and nationalists for decades and to demand the exercise of democratic liberties.

ISRAELI ACTION ON GOLAN HEIGHTS SEEN AS TACTIC

JN231539 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Zionist enemy decided yesterday not to discuss in the Knesset the project for the annexation of the Arab Syrian Golan Heights. At the same time the Begin government began to contact all the Zionist political elements in order to acquaint itself with the possible political or military consequences of proposing this project again.

Thus, the Zionist enemy proved that the withdrawal of the annexation project does not contradict with proposing this project again and that postponing approval of such a project is but a mere tactical issue whose temporary effect will end with a limited period of time.

The issue of annexing the Golan Heights forms the essence of the enemy's expansionist schemes and avaricious and aggressive ambitions. In fact the enemy has planned such schemes for a long time. Thus, the uproar made by the Zionist political circles on proposing the issue of annexation to the Knesset--as was manifested by the rumors which were circulated on the possibility of the division of the so-called opposition--is but a deceitful smokescreen which was designed by all the Zionist political elements with the purpose of paving the way for the final decision on the annexation of the heights through alleged and false democratic channels.

It is clear that with the approaching date of the elections in the Zionist entity, the Begin government will not hesitate to declare its intention with regard to the issues of expansion and usurpation of Arab territories, since its goal is the achievement of a big election gain before the end of the term of its rule next November. The Begin government also desires to affirm its fascist and expansionist nature, the purpose being to save whatever it can of its election assets.

It is for these reasons that this government is determined to declare the final annexation of the heights during the coming 10 months. It is certain that all the Zionist political elements will not force the issue of the annexation of the heights to the Zionist entity to remain under the monopoly of the Begin government and parliamentary group. Rather, these political elements will, in their turn, proceed to affirm the same aggressive trend and will work to exploit this very issue in the elections. Thus, it would be an illogical miscalculation to bet that there is a Zionist political group or power that objects to the annexation of the Golan. Sufficient proof of this truth can be seen in most of the procedures that have been adopted to pave the way for such an annexation--such procedures being represented by the steps that were taken for a speedy and intensive construction of settlements during the period when the present so-called opposition was in power in the Zionist entity.

The leaders of this entity--whether they are actually in power or belong to the so-called opposition--want to entrench the same aggressive trends which they followed in the past. Thus, these leaders' pretense of abstaining from the discussion of the annexation project before the Knesset is merely for the purpose of distributing roles among themselves. Those who unanimously approved the project of annexing Jerusalem will also unanimously approve the project of annexing the heights when such a project is proposed to the Knesset in the near future.

It is high time to be aware of the pitfalls of the deceitful Zionist game, whose purpose is to make every new Zionist gain stop Arab talk about a previous Zionist gain. It is high time for getting out of the framework of this game, since the enemy remains the enemy. It is impossible for this enemy to change its trends, goals and the forms which its aggression takes if the nature from which it proceeded in the past and its procedures of annexation and expansion at the expense of Arab rights do not also change.

Arab Syria is aware of this truth, as has been manifested by its daily practices and continuous confrontation of the occupation forces. Our heroic army's clash with the Zionist forces in southern Lebanon a few days ago and the fall of our martyrs during these clashes are but links in the series of heroic epics which our army has enacted in the fighting and which were enacted in a spectacular way in the Golan Heights before, during and after the October war.

Our heroic army, which confronted the enemy forces in southern Lebanon yesterday, is that same army which fought on the Golan Heights and dedicated itself to liberating these heights. Liberation will always remain foremost among the goals this army is working to achieve. Our immediate reply to such aggression will be sure proof of such a truth, and nothing will prevent us from affirming such a truth again and again.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID VIEWS ARAB SUMMIT, IRAQ-IRAN WAR

LD232332 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Chadli Bendjedid, president and secretary general of the FLN, granted an interview to Fu'ad Matar, chief editor of the magazine AL-IQTISAD AL-ARABI and the special representative of the magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL.

Replying to a question on the recent Arab summit in Amman, the president said Algeria's decision not to attend that summit followed the decision of the PLO and Syria not to attend. He stressed, however, that Algeria never pursues the policy of the empty chair whether in connection with Arab or international meetings.

The president then pointed out that during his first visit to the Arab east he conferred in Jordan with King Husayn about preparing a suitable climate for the holding of the Arab summit in order to attain the desired positive results and that Algeria works most energetically in all the processes connected with preparations for the Amman summit. "All brothers who participated in that work know well that the Algerian role to ensure the holding of a successful summit," he said. He added that Algeria makes every possible effort to achieve Arab agreement not only for holding the summit but also for making it 100 percent successful. "Summits came into being for the purpose of the Palestine question and Algeria did not attend the Amman summit due to the absence of the Palestinians," he said, emphasizing "we are with Palestine right or wrong. How then can we reconcile this with attending a summit which speaks about Palestine in the absence of the Palestinians."

To a question about the efforts of Algeria concerning the American hostages and the Iranian-Iraqi conflict, the president replied to the first part of the question that the role of Algeria in the question of the hostages is quite normal and that both the American and Iranian sides asked Algeria to contribute toward finding a solution to the question.

Concerning the Iraqi-Iranian dispute he pointed out that from the first days of the outbreak of hostilities between the two countries he established contacts with Presidents Saddam Husayn and Bani-Sadr and with a number of Arab and Islamic leaders in an attempt to contain the events before they became too complicated. But neither side showed any readiness for accomodation. Two months later when the conflict reached deadlock, Algeria proposed a return to the 1975 agreement as a basis for attempts to solve the conflict between the two countries.

He went on to say that what concerned Algeria was to stop the shedding of Arab-Islamic blood, and to prevent the fire from spreading to other parts and to contain the conflict between the two countries so that it would not turn into a conflict between two powers, something which would spell grave danger to everyone.

LIBYA

ARAB NATIONALS CALLED ON TO JOIN LIBYAN ARMY

JN232003 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 1918 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Station announcement]

[Text] Announcement on the acceptance of Arab volunteers:

In view of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's unionist revolutionary role as the unionist state and the state for all Arabs, and in affirmation of the right of every free Arab to have the honor of defending the Arab nation, liberating its soil and delivering its shrines from the filth of the imperialist presence, and in view of the 1 September revolution's belief that the hour of deliverance has come and that it is time for this nation to awake from its slumber and arise in the face of the aliens, the command of the General Staff calls on all the Arab pilots and technicians who have ended their military service for any reason whatsoever, to enlist in the service of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, where they will be given the opportunity to get advanced training and prepare themselves to wage the Arabs' great battle for freedom, honor and dignity. The call for jihad is sounded and the day of victory is approaching. Heed the call of duty and arise to defend Arab honor and dignity.

ARAB NATIONALS TO BE ACCEPTED IN MILITARY SCHOOLS

JN232049 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 1924 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Station announcement]

[Text] Announcement on the acceptance of Arab students in the military colleges of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah:

In view of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's unionist revolutionary role as the unionist state and the state for all the Arabs, and in affirmation of the right of every free Arab to get the proper training and to have the honor of defending the Arab nation, liberating its shrines, delivering it from all forms of alien imperialist presence and working for its unity, and in order to bring closer the day of creation of the armed Arab people, the command of the General Staff of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces announces that the door is now open for Arab students to join the following military colleges:

The military college, the naval college, the air force college, the air defense college and the girls military college.

The applicant must meet the following requirements:

He must be an Arab, must be between 17 and 25 years of age, must have a general secondary certificate or any other equivalent certificate, should pass the prescribed medical examination and must not have been convicted of a crime or felony concerning matters of honor.

The applicant must submit a written application with the following documents:

Certificate of the level of his education; certificate of non-conviction; a photograph of his passport, travel document or identity card; and his full address.

The student will be given a monthly allowance for the duration of his study. He will be granted the rank of second lieutenant at graduation. He will be subjected to all the military rules and regulations applied in the armed forces. If he finds any difficulty in obtaining some of the required documents, he may submit the application now, provided he pledges to bring those documents later.

The applications must be sent to the command of the General Staff the nearest military camp or any Libyan Embassy or People's Bureau abroad. For further explanations, the officials in the previous paragraph may be contacted.

[Signed] The command of the General Staff

IRAQI MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CHIEF REPORTEDLY KILLED

LD232238 Tripoli JANA in English 1926 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (JANA)--Reports from Baghdad say that Colonel Raed Sadoun, chief of Iraqi military intelligence, has been killed in Basrah by "opponents of the regime". Some military installations are also reported to have been destroyed in the city.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA CHAIRS JERUSALEM COMMITTEE SESSION

LD231940 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Text] Rabat, 23 Dec (MAP)--The closed session held by the Jerusalem Committee from 1015 through 1130 today in Rabat under the chairmanship of Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Boucetta has ended.

It has been learned from a source close to the committee that agreement was reached at the closed session to set up a subcommittee comprising Morocco, the PLO, Syria, Jordan, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia and Guinea to be entrusted with the task of studying the three working papers submitted by Morocco, Jordan, the PLO and Syria, in addition to a number of proposals submitted by the Bangladesh delegation.

The same source pointed out that the subcommittee, which has already begun its work, will work to find a unified formula in the light of the various proposals contained in the aforementioned working papers.

The source close to the Jerusalem Committee affirmed that the subcommittee will submit the results of its work to the plenary meeting of the Jerusalem Committee which is expected to be held at 1600 today. The source pointed out that no disagreements arose among the various members of the committee and that the absence of Iran and Libya had no effect on the work of the Jerusalem Committee.

The same source added that the unified working paper which is being prepared broadly derives from various resolutions and recommendations issued by the previous meetings of the Jerusalem Committee, the conferences of the Islamic states foreign ministers and the Arab summit conference held recently in Amman.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS RECEIVED--Rabat, 23 Dec (MAP)--King Hassan II of Morocco received here Monday Sheikh Ali Majid Al Kabbani, and Mr. Ngoka Ma Awassy, respectively new Saudi Arabian and new Gabonese ambassadors to Morrocco, who presented their letters of credentials to the monarch. [Text] [Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 23 Dec 80 LD]

SWISS AMBASSADOR CREDENTIALS--Rabat, 20 Dec (MAP)--Mr Abderrahman Benomar presented Friday to Mr Georges Chevallaz, president of the federal council of the Helvetic confederation, in the presence of Mr Pierre Auger, federal minister of foreign affairs, his credentials as extraordinary ambassador of Morocco to Switzerland. President Chevallaz lauded the wise policy of King Hassan II of Morocco and stressed the readiness of his country to further reinforce cooperation relations in the economic and technical field and the friendly ties existing between the two countries. [Text] [Rabat MAP in English 1214 GMT 20 Dec 80 LD]

ECONOMIC MINICABINET SESSION ENDS 24 DEC

TA241035 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz said a few minutes ago at the conclusion of the economic minicabinet's session that he was forced to compromise over the state budget. Our correspondent Gid'on Selinger reported that the minicabinet had concluded its debate on the Treasury's proposed financial policy but did not reach a conclusion; nor was a date set for the continued deliberations.

The finance minister said he had compromised on the budget, adding that there is a gap between what is desirable and what is available. At the same time, he said he believed he would be able to lower the inflation rate to under 100 percent even under the present circumstances. He said he will soon make contact with the Histadrut and the industrialists to find out whether cooperation with them on curbing inflation would be possible. Yiga'el Hurvitz repeated that there is no room for public tension or fear.

IDF DOCUMENT OUTLINES IMPACT OF DEFENSE BUDGET CUT

TA231456 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Dec 80 pp 1, 2

[Military correspondent Zb'ev Schiff report: "The IDF Has Submitted a Document Detailing the Implications of the Defense Budget Cuts: About 10,000 People Will Be Dismissed; the Production of the 'Kfir' Will Be Impaired; Training Will Be Cut"]

[Text] In a detailed document presented yesterday by the defense establishment to the prime minister and the economic minicabinet, IDF specialists pointed out the implications of the defense budget cuts. Among other things, the document states that if the defense budget is set at 15.5 or 16 billion shekels, some 10,000 defense establishment workers will be dismissed, including 4,000 regular servicemen; "Kfir" production will necessarily be damaged and the "Lavi" aircraft development plan will be put into serious question. Training and operational deployment will be cut in all the forces, including the air force. The experts stated that they had no doubt that a drop in the IDF's standard quality is to be expected.

The first meeting between the defense establishment staff and Prime Minister and Defense Minister Mr Menahem Begin was held yesterday morning. The deputy defense minister, the chief of staff, the Defense Ministry director general and other officers were also present. After Begin announced the economic minicabinet's decision on the defense budget, it was decided to adjourn so that the IDF could prepare a document on the implications of the cuts. The Defense Ministry director general, Mr Yosef Ma'ayan, and Deputy Chief of Staff Yequti'el Adam drew up this document together with the Defense Ministry budget department director, Brig Gen Tzvi Shur, Planning Branch chief Major General Sharoni, the Defense Ministry's economic adviser Mr Hasi[illegible] and others.

In its conclusion, the document says that a decline in the IDF's quality and standard is to be expected and this will be manifest in various fields, the operational sphere included, and particularly in the reserve divisions. The document further states that since the defense establishment acted according to a working plan approved by the Cabinet at the time and since it subsequently undertook obligations--including agreements and contracts--it will have to fulfill them. There will be a deficit in the next budget because the defense establishment was not compensated for the price rises that have meanwhile occurred. The only way to prevent a deficit would be to break contracts, including rehabilitation department undertakings as necessitated by the Knesset rules and regulations.

The main points in the document are:

-- It will be necessary to dismiss about 4,000 regular servicemen.

The cut will not be comprehensive in the budgetary sense because the law stipulates that a regular serviceman who has been dismissed should be paid for being unemployed because regular servicemen are not eligible for regular unemployment fees or national insurance.

-- About 6,000 civilians employed by the IDF will have to be dismissed.

-- The production of the "Kfir" aircraft will be affected even though the plans were for full production of the plane. More than half the funds initially intended for the "Lavi" aircraft development project will be cut and it is doubtful whether it will be possible to realize this project.

-- The "Merkava" tank orders will be severely limited and the profitability of maintaining a production line will be brought into serious question.

-- Training and operational deployment plans in all the forces will be curtailed.

-- Plans to procure arms in the development stage will be drastically cut.

-- The scientific administration's activity will drastically decline and it will become necessary to dismiss hundreds of scientists, engineers and specialists.

-- The rehabilitation centers will limit their activity.

-- The Ramon Plan for 1981 will be limited. It will be impossible to begin building the Nevatim airfield or the additional Mediterranean Sea port planned for the navy.

-- The number of reserve duty days will be cut.

-- Free transport for soldiers will be abolished.

-- There will be no additional construction work beyond what has been approved for the Ramon Plan.

-- Vehicle replacement due to wear and tear will be lowered by 80 to 90 percent.

-- The ammunition and spare part stocks will continue to decrease because the number of orders will be drastically cut.

-- The intelligence capability will be harmed because the funds allocated for it will be limited.

-- The paramilitary and naval budgets will either be severely cut or will not enjoy any budgetary allocation at all.

TZIPORI INTERVIEWED ON DEFENSE BUDGET CUT

TA231649 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Text] In view of the cut in the defense budget, we will be compelled to make considerable reductions in manpower in the regular armed forces and in the defense establishment. This is confirmed by Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori. Various defense projects will also be adversely affected in light of the budget cut. The development of the Lavi, however, will go on. Our military correspondent Sha'ul Stav today discussed the budget issue with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori.

[Begin recording] [Tzipori] Naturally I cannot speak about numbers, but there is no doubt that there will be manpower cuts in the defense establishment.

[Question] What form will these cuts take?

[Answer] I assume that we will carry them out decorously. That is: Past experience shows that every year thousands of people are replaced, both within the framework of the regular army and in that of the civilian workers. Some simply complete their contracts, some reach retirement age, and so forth. And within this framework we shall try to implement the maximum required, though further measures may be needed.

[Question] What will happen to projects such as the Lavi project and others? What about the Kfir project, or scientific-defense projects?

[Answer] The Lavi project will continue, under all conditions and all circumstances. Regarding other projects, I assume that the plan we will draw up will aim at a minimal blow to projects. The Kfir issue is a problematic one: It has been problematic for several years now, in view of, I would say, the IDF's reduced needs for this plane, and in the light of the fact that we have not yet attained markets. If we do not succeed in finding markets for the Kfir, we will have problems.

[Question] Regarding the cuts, where do you believe the greatest blow will fall--in the armed forces, in training, in the frameworks [of the armed forces] or in the industrial sphere?

[Answer] The blow will be, I would say, on the scope of our [word indistinct]. We shall try under all circumstances not to affect the fighting units.

[Question] In this connection, in view of the budget cut, does the subject of the formation of the land forces command become more relevant?

[Answer] This subject is now on the Cabinet's agenda for discussion, and no decision has as yet been made. My own personal view is known. I think that the creation of the new state of affairs, and the need for cuts reinforce the thesis I have expressed quite a few times.

[Question] In light of the budget decided on, will Israel's defense establishment in the coming year--will this be the same Israel from the standpoint of strength and military power?

[Answer] The State of Israel, from the viewpoint of its military strength, as compared with all the periods from the state's establishment until today, is inestimably strong, powerful, good and can safeguard the State of Israel in all projected conditions. The IDF's strengthening in recent years in quality and in quantity has been extremely impressive. There is no doubt that if the State of Israel could allow itself larger budgets, we would be able to find uses for more matters in order to enhance our power even more. However, even with the given conditions, Israel's security is not in any doubt, and I would say that it would not be worth anyone's while to put it to the test.

[Question] I understand that it is the government that assumes the responsibility for the cuts, of course.

[Answer] In every democratic country it is the government that is responsible. The Government of Israel decided on the cuts, the Government of Israel is responsible for defense. According to the State of Israel's constitution [as heard], the supreme command of the Israel defense forces and the Government of Israel--and it is the defense minister who is charged by the Government of Israel with executing this subject--this government has never evaded its responsibility, and today, too, it assumes full responsibility. [end recording]

UDEAC LEADERS URGED TO ASSIST CHAD PEACE PROCESS

AB191754 Paris AFP in French 1052 GMT 19 Dec 80

[Text] Brazzaville, 18 Dec (AFP)--On Thursday evening in Brazzaville, the Congolese president, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, expressed the wish that the UDEAC [Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa]; leaders (Cameroon, Central Africa, Congo, Gabon) would use their authority in the Chadian drama which, he indicated, will be discussed during this essentially economic summit, observers in the Congolese capital say.

The latest developments in the situation in Chad and the presence at the summit of Colonel Kamougue, who represents Mr Goukouni Oueddei, the head of the Transitional National Union Government of Chad--GUNT--would seem to augur numerous discussions.

Informed sources also announced that informal exchanges of views on Chad would take place either between the four heads of state, or in private among some of them, with or without the vice chairman of the GUNT.

However, the UDEAC heads of state do not want to give the impression that they want to substitute themselves for the ad hoc committee or for those OAU heads of state who have already worked out peace formulas and who are going to start the whole process again in Lagos on 23 December, the same sources added. The UDEAC heads of state do not want to aggravate the differences in Chad but they want to use their authority in order that the people of Chad might live in peace again, the Congolese president, Mr Denis Sassou-Nguesson declared in Brazzaville on Thursday. In the speech he delivered at the inauguration of the 16th UDEAC summit, the Congolese leader indicated that the ties which link each of us (Cameroon, Congo, Cabon and Central Africa) to Chad are so close that we cannot avoid feeling a particular responsibility in connection with the problem. The Congolese head of state hailed the efforts of the OAU countries and those of the ad hoc committee which aim at finding a peaceful solution to this dramatic war.

Upon opening the summit, the Congolese leader, in his capacity as UDEAC current chairman, greeted his counterparts Presidents Ahmadou Ahidjo of Cameroon, Omar Bongo of Gabon, David Dacko of the Central African Republic, and he welcomed Col Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue, vice chairman of the Transitional National Union Government of Chad (GUNT), who came as an observer and to the OAU secretary general, Mr Edem Kaojo.

CHAD'S KAMOUGUE OPPOSED TO LAGOS MEETING

AB231154 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Excerpts] The conference on Chad will open today in Lagos. No one knows in what condition it will be held since the Transitional National Union Government, GUNT, of Chad refuses to sit at the same conference table with its brothers with whom it is in conflict.

The vice president of the GUNT, Colonel Kamougue, who was on a private visit to Libreville, yesterday confirmed GUNT's boycott of the conference decided by its president, Goukouni Oueddei. Colonel Kamougue, who was received in audience yesterday by the president of the republic, His Excellency El-Haj Omar Bongo, however, approved of this meeting in principle. According to him, today's meeting in Lagos is normal because it will enable the OAU African heads of the state to fly to the assistance of Chad which is sick [words indistinct].

Colonel Kamougue, who recalled that his country will never serve as a springboard for the destabilization of independent African countries, also expressed concern about the presence of Libyan troops in his country.

He said the Chadians are jealous of their country's independence and condemn all forms of African imperialism. He went further to say that the problem of future relations between Chad and Libya will be discussed by the Chadian Cabinet. Colonel Kamougue said: [begin recording] [passage indistinct] We reject imperialism. We must also do everything to avoid this form of African imperialism. [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

CHAD MEETING OPENS: COUKOUNI ATTENDS, HABRE ABSENT

AB231224 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Text] The OAU Good Offices Committee's conference on Chad opened today in Lagos with 10 heads of state in attendance. In an address of welcome, President Shehu Shagari recalled the previous efforts made by the OAU to find a lasting solution to the Chadian crisis. He regretted that apart from the formation of a Transitional National Union Government, other aspects of the Lagos accords could not be implemented owing to continued and intensified hostility between the opposing camps.

President Shehu Shagari said that with the latest development whereby the National Union Transitional Government was virtually in complete control of Chad, the committee could now turn its back on the problem of a cease-fire and face the other aspects of the Lagos accords. These are: pacification, reconstruction and the rehabilitation of the Chadian people. Nigeria, he stated, was honored to be of assistance in the efforts being made by the OAU committee to bring about a new lease of a peaceful life and lasting order in the Republic of Chad.

In a response, the current chairman of the OAU President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, commended Nigeria for her continued efforts to bring about a lasting solution to the Chadian conflict. He said that foreign influences have complicated the issues in Chad and, over the years, constituted a challenge not only to the people of Chad but to the entire continent. President Stevens pointed out that as a result of horrors of war, refugees from Chad have flooded neighboring countries. The Chadian problem, he stated, has posed the supreme challenge whether the African Continent has the collective will and power to devise African solutions to African problems.

After the opening session, the OAU Good Offices Committee went into a closed door session. It is expected to hold another session later in the day. Tonight, there will be a cultural show and a state banquet in honor of the African leaders. Only one of the warring factions, President Goukouni Oueddei, has arrived for the summit.

AFP Report

AB231358 Paris AFP in English 1347 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Lagos, 23 Dec (AFP)--The Organization of African Unity (OAU) conference on Chad opened here today with the Chadian seat vacant, but Nigerian officials said that Chad President Goukouni Oueddei would arrive in the Nigerian capital later today. Official sources here said Mr Goukouni would not officially take part in the conference, but would hold talks with Nigerian President Shehu Shagari.

Mr Habre would not be welcome at the conference, a Nigerian source said, amid speculation that Mr Goukouni only agreed to travel to Lagos on condition that the rebel leader was not also in town. Observers here said that the African leaders in Lagos had gone out of their way to persuade Mr Goukouni to join the conference, and there was speculation that they had agreed that the meeting should concentrate on the issue of Chadian reconstruction following the war.

Before today, it had been expected that the question of withdrawal from Chad of the Libyan troops who reportedly helped Mr Goukouni win the war would be raised at the talks. Mr Goukouni also had feared, apparently, that Mr Habre might use the talks to regain diplomatically what he had lost militarily.

Delegates at the conference came from the special OAU ad hoc committee on Chad (Togo, Benin, Congo and Guinea), Chad's six neighbours (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Sudan, Libya, Niger and Nigeria), Senegal and Sierra Leone, with all but Sudan and Libya represented by their presidents.

In his opening speech, Mr. Shagari summed up developments at the four other Chadian reconciliation conferences hosted by Nigeria since March, 1979, and had special praise for Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema for his efforts to produce a cease-fire during the civil war. The long-awaited cease-fire was signed by Mr Goukouni almost a month ago, while Mr Habre initialled it only after his forces had withdrawn from Ndjamena, to the scorn of the Chadian president.

However Mr Shagari called on the conference to forget the cease-fire issue and work towards implementation of other aspects of the August 1979 Lagos accord laying down a programme for national reconciliation.

Sierra Leone's President Siaka Stevens, this year's OAU chairman, said that the foreign presence in Chad should be withdrawn. It was up to the OAU to bring stability and development to Chad, he said.

The four points on the conference agenda were the setting up of an interim government reflecting national unity, preparation for elections and drafting of a political programme, organisation of an aid programme and the repatriation and rehabilitation of Chadian refugees, Mr Stevens said.

At-Turayki, Goukouni Arrival

AB231845 Paris AFP in English 1751 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Lagos, 23 Dec (AFP)--Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei and Libyan Foreign Minister Ab al-Salam at-Turayki arrived here today as 10 African presidents held talks on Chad's future following the defeat of rebel forces after a nine-month civil war. Mr At-Turayki, whose arrival was unexpected, walked straight into the conference to join the talks, while Mr Goukouni was expected to hold talks with the other African leaders outside the conference hall.

[Paris AFP in English at 1840 GMT on 23 December carries a service message adding: Former Chad Defense Minister Hissein Habre, leader of the defeated rebel forces in the war, arrived without warning this afternoon at the conference hall, but was asked by Nigerian Foreign Minister Ishaya Audu to go back to his hotel, Nigerian sources said. [sentence indistinct]

In a reference to Libyan aid during the final days of the civil war, OAU Chairman Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone told the conference that the foreign presence in Chad should be withdrawn. And in a later speech Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema, without naming Libya, also criticized the Tripoli government's role in Chad. The real victors (of the civil war) are the gun-runners and those who aided you physically, even if they did not fight in your place, he said.

President Eyadema noted that when Mr Goukouni signed a cease-fire agreement at the end of last month the OAU ad hoc committee appealed for all foreign forces to be withdrawn from Chad. He told the Chadian people: It is important that you examine your conscience in depth, to discover and finally isolate the true enemies of the Chadian people.

Observers here said that the arrival in Lagos of both Mr Goukouni and Mr At-Turayki was made possible [words indistinct] agenda made no mention of Libyan intervention in Chad or of any distinction between Chadian factions identified at the time of the signing of the Lagos accord in August 1979.

Officially conference business was expected to concentrate on the issue of reconstruction and rehabilitation. Outside the terms of the agenda, however, the question of Libya's presence is a subject for debate.

The only noticeable absentee following the arrival of Mr Goukouni and the Libyan delegation was Hissein Habre, leader of the rebel Armed Forces of the North during the civil war. Observers here said that the Chadian president had made the non-participation of his former minister a condition of his own attendance. The conference was expected to continue late into the night.

Communique on Conference

AB241228 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Text] The communique on the special OAU conference on Chad held in Lagos this week has been published in the federal capital. In it, the participating heads of state reaffirmed the validity of the Lagos accords as the basis for the establishment of peace, security and tranquility in Chad. They urged the Transitional National Union Government and the people of Chad as a whole to do everything possible to preserve the cessation of hostilities which has just come about.

The communique also urged the Transitional National Union Government to organize elections in collaboration with the OAU by the end of January, 1982. In this connection, the heads of state appealed earnestly to the United Nations to render all possible assistance to the transitional government and cooperate with it in its program of national reconstruction.

They mandated the secretary general of the OAU to organize a conference for the pledging of assistance to Chad. In the meantime, the African leaders advised that no foreign troops should be stationed in Chad except in accordance with the provisions of the Lagos accords. They asked the Transitional National Union Government to accept a monitoring force to be stationed in Chad to ensure fair and free elections.

More African leaders who attended the OAU meeting on Chad have left Lagos for their respective countries. Among them are President Seyni Kountche of Niger [as heard] and President Leopold Senghor of Senegal. Those who left earlier were President Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo, President Seyni Kountche of Niger and President Ahmadou Ahidjo of Cameroon. They were all seen off at the airport today by the president, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, as well as the vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme, and other top government officials.

IVORY COAST

NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ELECTED 22 DEC

AB221658 Paris AFP in English 1652 GMT 22 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Abidjan, 22 Dec (AFP)--Henri Konan Bedie, the Ivory Coast's finance minister between 1966 to 1977, was today elected president of his country's new National Assembly. Mr Konan Bedie, 46, a former ambassador to the United States, takes over the post from Philippe Yace, who was for a long time tipped as successor to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. He was the only candidate.

Mr Konan Bedie, a lawyer with a doctorate in economic science, was ambassador to the United States from independence in 1960 until 1966, when he became finance minister. Since 1977, he has been governor of Societe Financiere Internationale (International Finance Company), a subsidiary of the World Bank.

NIGERIA

KANO REPORTED UNDER CONTROL AFTER CLASHES

AB231351 Paris AFP English 1343 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Text] Lagos, 23 Dec (AFP)--Religious riots in Kano killed 250 people, according to latest reports reaching here, but the situation appeared to be under control today in the northern Nigerian city. Newspapers in Lagos also reported that hundreds of people had been seriously injured and more than 1,000 members of a Moslem sect calling itself Yan Izalla had been arrested in the disorders last week. Most of the sects members are said to come from other West and Central African states. Official police reports put the death toll at just 34, including seven policemen.

The riots were touched off Thursday when militant Moslems began shooting indiscriminately and burning houses and other public and private buildings, news reports said. The motive for these attacks was not clear.

The reports said police squads sent to quell the disorder were attacked and several of their vehicles burned. The sect is made up largely of immigrants from Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Guinea. Its leader is said to be from Cameroon. Kano, with more than one million people, is the center of Islam in Nigeria, and is regarded as a volatile hotbed of popular religious and political movements.

Air Force Intervention

AB231845 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Dec 80

[Text] The Nigerian Air Force is joining in the operation to bring the religious disturbances in Kano under control following permission from the federal head of state and commander in chief of the armed forces, Alhaji Shehu Shagari. [passage indistinct]

A report from Kano said that President Shehu Shagari gave the permission after he was briefed on how the situation had worsened earlier today. This was disclosed at a meeting between the state governor, Alhaji Abukari Rimi, the commanding officer of the 3d infantry brigade and senior officers of the Kano Police Command. The report added that officers and men of the 3d infantry brigade have been asked to stand by. Before now only the policemen [word indistinct] in the city and most of the (?parites) have [words indistinct].